

Prior to the FCC and Congress relaxing the rules of radio ownership, we were accustomed to having a radio medium that was more balanced with the views expressed via the radio airwaves. Since the rules have been relaxed, Clear Channel Communications has managed to buy up most of the radio stations in my local area, tending to inundate the air waves with views and opinions that I don't personally share, and Clear Channel has used its might to support pro-war political rallies and conservative talk shows, keeping anti-war songs and talk shows off its stations, coercing musicians into playing free promotional concerts, and bullying them into performing at its music venues. We hear far less music and are inundated with opinions and endless rhetoric, and no longer hear a balance of both sides on any particular issue expressed by the "personalities" on the station and repeatedly those who do have the courage to call in and voice an opposing view are all too often accused of being anti-American and unpatriotic. Since when did democracy become so one sided? It has soured my appetite for music, and has discouraged me from allowing my nine-year-old son to listen to the radio.

Just as we need competition in our economy, we need it too, within the media. News corporations have shown time and again that they're willing to sacrifice journalism to drive up their bottom line. That's why we need many media entities. We must ensure they keep each other honest and supply the information and ideas that make democracy happen. So many of our basic democratic rights have been infringed upon during the last two years. This is just another example of promoting a very controlled, unbalanced view of events happening in our world and in our own country. Please allow adequate time for democracy and public opinion to determine whether this sweeping change is good for America. Allow congress and the senate adequate time to debate the issue and assure through our current television waves that the public is made aware of the vast implications this change could enact on our democratic society.